

## **DARKEST NIGHT**

### **SEASON 3**

#### **EPISODE 4: Live in Cleveland**

##### **CHARACTERS**

Katie Reed: Mid 20s. Impulsive and spontaneous. Quick learner who isn't afraid to speak her mind. Knows she's wrapped up in a larger conspiracy now, but has to keep that from Ricketts. Vivian Lobdow just told Katie that she needs her help.

Han Ziggler: Mid 40s. He is an agent for the NTK and Katie's new partner.

Gina: Co-Host of the If I Had to Pick a Killer...It'd Be This One podcast.

Kathy: Co-Host of the If I Had to Pick a Killer...It'd Be This One podcast.

Ralph: Producer, driver and assistant for the If I Had to Pick a Killer...It'd Be This One Podcast.

Jane Doe: Strung out drug addict.

Detective Tyree: 40s tough cop

Anna Sutton: Mid 30's female serial killer. Has an otherworldly voice that almost feels not human.

##### **LOCATIONS**

1. Venue
2. Drive
3. Hotel
4. Hotel Room

5. Hotel Balcony

Efx: Opening Door

Efx: Recording Device on

KATIE

Agent Ziggler, did you find  
anything on the cult?

HAN ZIGGLER

Nothing concrete. They reminded me  
of was the Brinstown Massacre.

KATIE

What's that?

HAN ZIGGLER

Christopher Brins-Hall was a  
radical pastor from Santa Cruz who  
moved his flock down to Ecuador to  
start a colony named Brinstown.

KATIE

So what's the connection?

HAN ZIGGLER

Brins-Hall believed that a greater  
species of Aliens had made contact  
with him. That the aliens' spirit  
animals were elephants to symbolize  
humility, truth, and everlasting  
life. But that lead seems dead on  
arrival.

KATIE

Huh? So why couldn't they be  
involved?

HAN ZIGGLER

Brins-Hall and his entire following  
poisoned themselves in a mass  
suicide years ago to prepare for  
the apocalypse. No followers  
survived and I haven't seen any of  
that symbolism again until that  
last head.

KATIE

Weird. Well let's see what else we  
can find.

Efx: Rolling cart

KATIE  
Oh my good! I can't believe SHE is  
Here?

HAN ZIGGLER  
(Interrupting)  
Keep it professional, Katie.

Efx: Katie Exhales

KATIE  
I'll do my best....but this is a  
tough one. I listen every...

HAN ZIGGLER  
Now is not the time.

Efx: Wet popping noise.

EFX: Sound of scalpel cutting flesh, beeps.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
Withdrawing blood from the optic  
nerve and depositing it into the  
box.

Efx: Wet popping noises

HAN ZIGGLER  
NTK Assignment #004

KATIE  
Time stamp is registering  
correctly. Initiating playback in  
3...  
2...  
1...  
Initiate.

EFX: Transition noise

Efx: Crowd Cheering

KATHY  
What's up Cleveland!

GINA  
Holy shit, we're in Cleveland. Wow,  
look at you guys!

KATHY  
You all are *drunk*.

Efx: More cheering

KATHY  
Alright, alright, calm down you  
lushes.

GINA  
Let's get this *killer* party  
started.

KATHY  
Because If I had to pick a  
killer....

CROWD  
It'd be this one!

Efx: More cheering.

KATHY  
Cleveland, Cleveland. What should  
we do for Cleveland?

GINA  
So many choices in Ohio. Michael  
Madison?

KATHY  
You know I don't like alliteration.

Efx: Audience Laughter

GINA  
Edward Edwards?

Efx: Audience Laughter

KATHY  
What did I just say? Wait, is there  
seriously a person named Edward  
Edwards?

GINA  
(Upbeat and in unison)  
Yup. Mustachioed fella. Looked  
sorta like Ralph, actually.

Efx: Audience Laughter

KATHY  
Awww!

GINA  
Our poor producer.

KATHY  
Anyway, Outside of the 70's I'm  
pretty sure mustaches are only  
acceptable for the 3 P's: pilots,  
producers, and pedophiles.

Efx: Audience Laughter

KATHY  
Anyway, let's get to what you all  
came for...

Efx: Audience cheers.

GINA  
So tonight we thought instead of  
each of us doing our own story, we  
would tag team one really big  
one...

KATHY  
Wouldn't be the first time, right  
Gina?

EFX: Audience hoots and laughter.

GINA  
Well actually it would, Kathy,  
because tonight we're talking  
about...a woman.

EFX: Audience "oooohs"

KATHY  
Alright, girl power! Who is our  
lucky lady?

GINA  
I'm talking about Beachwood's own  
Anna Sutton... The Tar Crow Killer.

Efx: Audience cheers.

KATHY  
Ohhh, she's still at large too,  
isn't she?

GINA  
Yep, she's a smart one.

EFX: If I Had to Pick a Killer...It'd Be This One cat  
ringtone goes off

Efx: Audience Laugh.

KATHY

Did you...did you just get a text?

GINA

Yep.

KATHY

In the middle of a live show?

GINA

What? My amazon just shipped.

EFX: audience laughter

KATHY

Gina, do you have any idea how much  
these people paid for tickets to  
watch us editorialize a wikipedia  
page?

GINA

Well shit, my Cheshire Cat cheese  
grater can wait. Are you guys ready  
to get started?!

EFX: audience screaming

KATHY

So, like many of the stories that  
we share with you Killerinos, Anna  
did not have a great start in life.

GINA

She was born in Beechwood, Ohio in  
1984 to a single mother named  
Claire Sutton and an absentee  
father. Not much is known about her  
father or even who he was.

KATHY

So, at the age of 7, child  
protective services came to Anna's  
home in Everett Pines Trailer Park  
to investigate Claire's repeated  
drug charges. Anna was moved to her  
Grandmother's house in Canton, some  
60 miles south of Beechwood.

GINA

Not much is known about the month Anna spent with her Grandmother but about 4 weeks after moving in Anna apparently decided to run away. She hitchhiked - at 7 years old, mind you - back to her mother's house in Beechwood. And she made it! But...no one answered the door.

KATHY

(groaning)

Awww. That poor kid.

GINA

It only gets worse.

KATHY

It sure does. So Anna breaks a window. Just picks up a rock and throws it -

GINA

- and this is where things get weird.

KATHY

Absolutely bizarre. Because as soon as the window breaks dozens of crows just start flying out of the trailer. They were in there in *swarms*.

GINA

When she was finally able to climb in and see what was going on, she found the interior covered with feathers and bird shit.

KATHY

...and the rotting, half eaten corpse of her mother. Who had finally ODeD.

Efx: Audience Ooooohs

GINA

To say this was a formative moment for Anna would be an understatement.

Efx: Audience nervously laugh

KATHY

So, the lesson she took from her mother's death was that life was to be consumed. That feeding on the leftovers was an essential element in the circle of life.

GINA

But to Anna, the "leftovers", so to speak, weren't people that were already dead. They were the people that - in her opinion - had nothing left to justify their existence, other than what their corpses could offer the living.

KATHY

Since drugs played such a big part to those who failed her...

GINA

Addicts seemed to be her primary targets.

KATHY

And so...at the age of 17, Anna committed her first murder.

EFX: Audience Oooohs

GINA

And her victim's name was Jack James.

KATHY

Ah, an alliteration!

EFX: Audience Laughs

GINA

Oh my god, shut up.

KATHY

Jack was a local heroin dealer at Beachwood High school. And like most drug peddlers at his age, he was really only selling to pay for his own habit.

GINA

So on October 21st, two thousand and 1 Anna offered Jack a ride home from school.

(MORE)



GINA (CONT'D)

And when they arrived at his house,  
he asked her to help him shoot up.

KATHY

She obliged, of course. Though,  
Anna injected Jack James with over  
10x the amount of heroin he told  
her to.

GINA

And she just sat there and watched  
him die.

EFX: Audience ooohs

KATHY

That's cold.

GINA

So after he was done convulsing,  
Anna went out and bought straight  
up tar from Home Depot and painted  
his skin with it.

EFX: Crowd Gasps

KATHY

But what else did she have with  
her? Feathers. She had fuckin'  
feathers. So she literally tarred  
and feathered this kid. And then  
Anna then left his body in  
Lyndhurst park.

GINA

Where it was found by a dog-walker  
the next morning.

KATHY

Damn, dog-walkers need their own  
union. They're always discovering  
corpses.

GINA

I would so join that union!

KATHY

So after the Jack James was found,  
Anna was never seen again. Bodies  
stacked up in Lyndhurst Park like  
firewood over the next 10 years or  
so.

(MORE)

KATHY (CONT'D)

Every victim had a, shall we say  
colorful past, and all were left  
tarred and feathered.

GINA

Ever since then, they've been  
finding bodies about twice a year.  
And every time a toxicology report  
comes back, the cause of death is  
an overdose. It's a strange sort of  
vigilante justice, at least, that's  
probably the way Anna Sutton sees  
it.

KATHY

She really is playing judge, jury,  
and executioner. Which, Anna, in  
case you're here tonight, you need  
a degree for at least one of those  
things, honey.

Efx: Audience laughs

GINA

Oh god, I didn't even think about  
that. She could be here.

KATHY

Anna, if you're here make sure you  
buy some merch.

EFX: Audience cheers.

KATHY (CONT'D)

That goes for all of you  
Killerinos.

EFX: More cheering.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

I love you, ladies!

KATHY

Aw, we love you too.

GINA

Anyway, there is one person who has  
seen Anna in the last ten years and  
lived to tell the tale. 'Jane Doe',  
who did not reveal her name to the  
public.

KATHY

We were, however, lucky enough to get our hands on this clip from her police interview.

GINA

Hit it, Ralph!

Efx: Cassette starts playing

JANE DOE

(distorted through tape recorder)

No, I already told you. I was sleeping on the side of the mini mart. I woke up to her voice asking if I wanted to get high.

DETECTIVE TYREE

Can you describe what she looked like? Sounded like? What she was wearing?

JANE DOE

I don't know. I don't remember. I think she had brown hair or her hair was just really dirty. I just knew *something* about her wasn't right.

DETECTIVE TYREE

So what did you do?

JANE DOE

I followed her to a building and She began to fix me. All the sudden it got really dark.

EFX: power going out.

EFX: Sound.

JANE DOE (CONT'D)

I couldn't move and I began to hear a high pitched sound in my left ear....

EFX: Sound more distinct

JANE DOE (CONT'D)

It was almost like a twisted, like, caw caw...

Efx: Sound with Ring Effect on Sound Particles

JANE DOE (CONT'D)  
Then there were more screeches.

Efx: Tar being handled

JANE DOE (CONT'D)  
Then....I began to hear the sound  
of someone mixing something. Now I  
know it was the tar but at the time  
I didn't until all the stories  
started coming back to me. I knew  
it was her.

DETECTIVE TYREE  
So how did you get free?

JANE DOE  
When she approached me with the  
paint brush, I laid still until I  
had a perfect shot.

Efx: Knife through hand on a table.

JANE DOE (CONT'D)  
I whipped out my pocket knife,  
pinned her hand to the table with  
it. Stabbed right through the top.

Efx: Stab

Efx: Running

JANE DOE (CONT'D)  
Then, I ran tan as far away as I  
could.

DETECTIVE TYREE  
Good god!

EFX: Tape off

GINA  
That was the last anyone has ever  
seen of her.

KATHY  
I am curious why it went dark  
though. Was the power cut?

GINA  
Sounds like Anna isn't paying her  
power bill.

Efx: laughter

KATHY

Thanks guys! That's our show! See you next year!

EFX: Power goes out.

Efx: Stabbing sound

Efx: People screaming and losing their minds

Efx: light turned back on

GINA

Hahahah, got you guys.

KATHY

Thanks Cleveland!

EFX: Audience laughing and applauding.

NARRATOR

This day seemed like any other in the lives of Kathy and Gina when they were on tour. Hotels, ubers, disappointing local fare, and red wine. Moments after the show ended they shuffled their gig bags into their hired car behind the venue.

EFX: open and close car door.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Ralph was already sitting in the front seat.

EFX: Car driving

KATHY

Did you guys see this email about a new sponsor?

GINA

Let me check...hmmm it looks a new snack company. Healthy Box by Prior Carlisle's. Looks okay.

KATHY

Huh. That's a lot of jerky for a health box.

GINA

Ha, and their spokesman is that Texas senator what's his name?

KATHY  
Jackson Carlisle. Gina, he is  
literally the namesake of the  
company.

GINA  
This day can't get any weirder.

EFX: Caws in the distance.

KATHY  
Did you hear that?

GINA  
Ralph, What was that?

Efx: Caws wizzing by

RALPH  
It looks like a bunch of crows.

KATHY  
Okay, shut the fuck up.

EFX: 10 seconds Crows wizzing by the car

GINA  
(under breath)  
I don't care what we told them, we  
are never coming back to Cleveland.

KATHY  
Let's get our stuff from the hotel  
and just get out of here.

GINA  
Ralph, move us up to the red eye.  
We are not staying overnight.

RALPH  
Working on it.

KATHY  
Fucking crows. This feels like a  
prank. Ralph, can you drop us off  
at the side door of the hotel?

EFX: Car pulling in and parking

RALPH  
I'll wait while you ladies get your  
bags and check out.

GINA

Perfect.

EFX: Kathy and Gina exit the car.

EFX: Walking to hotel

Efx: Opening big door.

Efx: Open Elevator door.

KATHY

What the fuck?

NARRATOR

Kathy pointed to the ground.

Efx: Picking up object.

GINA

Are those crow feathers all over the floor? Okay, now I know this is a prank.

EFX: door opening

KATHY

Let's just get out of here.

NARRATOR

Gina and Kathy walked as fast as they could to their rooms.

Efx: Ruffling around her purse

KATHY

Do you have your Keycard?

GINA

Yep.

Efx: Wrong Sound

Efx: Wrong Sound

GINA

I can't get in.

KATHY

Your room connects to mine, just come through my room.

Efx: Green light open

GINA  
(unsettled)  
Okay.

NARRATOR  
They gathered their things as quickly as they could. In less than 5 minutes their bags were packed and they'd changed into clothes for their flight.

KATHY  
Just texted Ralph. Let's go!

EFX: power dying. The women gasp.

GINA  
You know it's probably just some killerino from the show jabbing us back.

KATHY  
You think they would be able to shut the power down in the hotel?

GINA  
Whatever, lets just get out of here.

EFX: Jingling with locked door.

GINA  
I am trying to open the door.

KATHY  
Was it locked?

GINA  
It looks like you need the power to override the card reader!

KATHY  
To get out? What the fuck??

GINA  
Ok, I'm calling Ralph.

Efx: phone dialing.

RALPH  
Hey. I'm still in the car.



GINA  
The power's out and we're trapped  
in our room.

RALPH  
What? Call the front desk!

GINA  
Kathy's trying but the signal is  
busy.

RALPH  
Ugh I am coming right up.

EFX: car dies.

RALPH  
Shit, the car just died. Should I  
call an Uber?

GINA  
Ralph-

RALPH  
Fuck, I'll call you back.

GINA  
Ralph!

EFX: Phone hangs up

GINA  
That motherfucker.

KATHY  
What?

GINA  
He hung up on us.

KATHY  
That motherfucker.

GINA  
What do we do now? Call 911?

KATHY  
Abuso-fucking-lutely!

EFX: Dialing 911. Busy signal.

KATHY  
Oh, come on!

GINA

Get to the door! We gotta keep  
trying to get this open!

NARRATOR

Kathy and Gina continued fumbling  
with the doors and trying to call  
out to help but their efforts were  
useless in both campaigns.

KATHY

This hotel is the worst.

EFX: Footsteps walking down the hall.

GINA

(whispering)

Do you think it's someone coming to  
help us?

KATHY

(whispering)

Who else would it be?

GINA

(whispering)

I don't know. Anna Sutton?

KATHY

(whispering)

That's ridiculous, even for us.  
This is a 5 star hotel.

GINA

H.H. Holmes owned a five star  
hotel.

KATHY

(whisper)

Fuuuuuck!

EFX: Footsteps stop at the door.

Beat.

NARRATOR

Kathy and Gina held their breath.

Efx: grunt and footsteps away.

KATHY

(Whispering)

They didn't even knock. What if it  
was an employee?

GINA  
(whispering)  
I don't think so. I have a really  
bad feeling, Kathy.

KATHY  
What should we do?

GINA  
I don't know. I don't know. Is the  
whole hotel out of power?

KATHY  
Let's look.

NARRATOR  
Kathy and Gina walked out onto the  
balcony and surveyed the rest of  
the building. The only dark rooms  
in the entire hotel...were theirs.

KATHY  
What the fuuuuck...

GINA  
There's the uber. Where the hell s  
Ralph? Call him again.

EFX: endless ringing

KATHY  
I'm gonna kill that mustachioed  
bastard.

GINA  
What are we gonna do?

EFX: cawing

KATHY  
Oh my god, more crows. Gina, I am  
freaking the fuck out.

EFX: more cawing

GINA  
Back inside - get back inside!

EFX: sliding door opening and slamming shut. Things hitting  
it.

KATHY  
They're- they're diving bombing  
onto the door. They're killing  
themselves!

GINA  
Kathy...

KATHY  
Gina, look at this!

GINA  
(whispering, afraid)  
There's someone in the room.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
Kathy spun around and saw that  
there was indeed someone there.  
Before she could make a sound the  
glass shattered behind her and  
everything.... went.. dark.

Efx: glass shatters, screaming that dies away.

NARRATOR  
As Kathy and Gina came to, they  
found themselves sitting on Kathy's  
bed Their lumbs bound and their  
mouths taped shut. A quiet lamp  
flicker on in the corner.

EFX: Gina gasps with tape over her mouth.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
They could hear the sound of the  
something being mixed nearby. They  
looked at each other in horror.

GINA  
(mumble)  
Is that?

EFX: Kathy and Gina begin screaming (muffled).

Efx: Caw sounds

Efx: Footsteps

ANNA SUTTON

Perhaps I'll let you speak after  
all since you both have so much to  
say.

NARRATOR

A woman appeared next to the bed  
and ripped the tapes off of their  
mouths.

Efx: Tape ripping off of their mouths.

EFX: Footsteps away

KATHY

(whispering, shaky voice)

Gina...

GINA

(whispering)

I know...

ANNA SUTTON

If you're looking for your producer  
he's there, by the door.  
Unfortunately the only thing he'll  
be producing anymore is a rancid  
smell.

EFX: Anna's crazy laughter

NARRATOR

The women gasped as they saw a body  
leaning against the corner of the  
room. Dead, tarred, and  
feathered...

KATHY

Ralph!

GINA

What the fuck? Who are you?

ANNA SUTTON

You sure you don't know? Earlier  
tonight you gave an entire lecture  
on me. You disrespected me. You  
turned my entire life's work  
into...entertainment.

Beat.

KATHY

Please let us go, Anna.

ANNA SUTTON

I decided if you two loved my story  
soo much....Maybe you'd want some..  
*first hand experience.*

EFX: tar being lathered on Gina and Kathy.

GINA

Oh come on, not the tar, fuck!

KATHY

What will it take for you to let us  
go? Money?

ANNA SUTTON

I have no need of money.

GINA

What do you want from us? We're not  
drug addicts, we're just comedians!

KATHY

Maybe you could also use our brand  
of humor to help you deal a trauma.

GINA

Crow on...

ANNA SUTTON

SILENCE!

Beat.

NARRATOR

Suddenly Gina couldn't open her  
mouth. Could barely breathe. She  
had no idea what was happening to  
her. Though, she was no longer in  
control of her own body.

ANNA SUTTON

You two think you are so great but  
you even got a couple points wrong  
though.

GINA

What???

ANNA SUTTON

I don't kill just junkies. The  
corpses in Lyndhurst were practice.  
(MORE)

ANNA SUTTON (CONT'D)  
 They were my failures. My greatest prizes are the bodies that walk in plain sight...as vessels.

KATHY  
 (Nervous)  
 What are you talking about?

ANNA SUTTON  
 I'm not a *serial killer*, I'm a scientist. But in the early days I didn't always get it right and there was...some collateral damage. I tried to only use those who were burdens on society. You see, I'm not a bad person, you got my motivations all wrong.

GINA  
 How so?

Efx: Anna laughs

ANNA SUTTON  
 Ladies, wait here.

EFX: footsteps

KATHY  
 What is that?

NARRATOR  
 Kathy and Gina gasped as people edged forward out of the shadows into their room.

PITCH TUNED VOICE  
 Let it begin.

ANNA SUTTON AND A CHORUS OF VOICES  
 (chanting clamly)  
 PATER noster, qui es in cœlis;  
 sanctificatur nomen tuum:  
 Adveniat regnum tuum;  
 fiat voluntas tua,

NARRATOR  
 The people began to move closer.

ANNA SUTTON AND A CHORUS OF VOICES  
 (chanting building)  
 sicut in cœlo, et in terra.  
 (MORE)

ANNA SUTTON AND A CHORUS OF VOICES  
 Panem nostrum cotidianum da nobis  
 hodie:  
 Et dimitte nobis debita nostra,  
 sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus  
 nostris:  
 et ne nos inducas in tentationem:  
 sed libera nos a malo.

PITCH TUNED VOICE  
 Let it begin!

NARRATOR  
 A finger touched Gina's face. She  
 felt a sudden intense pain all over  
 her body. It was as if every organ  
 in her being was shifting and  
 squeezing together.

EFX: Gina Screams in Agony

GINA  
 Make it stop! Make it stop!

ANNA SUTTON  
 We can't make it stop. Your body is  
 already changing.

NARRATOR  
 Kathy writhed on the bed next to  
 her but Gina could scarcely see her  
 through the haze of her own agony.  
 Then, everything went dark and she  
 was reborn.

EFX: Bone Crunching

EFX: Gina Death Scream

Chorus  
 (last triumphant line of  
 the chant)  
 Mors vincit omnia!

Efx: Silence

KATHY  
 What did you just do! Gina! Gina!

Efx: Footsteps

NARRATOR  
 Anna broke out of the crowd and  
 slowly walked towards Kathy's bed.  
 (MORE)



NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
She raised her arm and clenched her  
fingers around Anna's neck.

EFX: Fingers on Kathy's Neck

Efx: Kathy struggling to breathe

ANNA SUTTON  
(whispering in ear)  
A wise woman once said to live your  
life as if it would be retold 30  
years later. How did you think you  
fared?

Beat.

EFX: Anna's fingers tightening their grip and beginning to  
choke Kathy.

EFX: Kathy struggling to breathe

KATHY  
(struggling)  
My therapist once said....

EFX: Kathy trying to scream

NARRATOR  
Kathy's organs began to shift  
inside her body and her skin was  
being pulled inside. She felt a  
pain unlike anything she had ever  
experienced.

Efx: Kathy Death Scream

NARRATOR  
Her corpse dropped to the floor  
next to Gina's. They looked like  
indistinguishable messes of blood  
and gets.

ANNA SUTTON  
(last triumphant line of  
the chant)  
Mors vincit Fin!

EFX: Crows flying in

NARRATOR  
The crows flew down and began to  
feast on what was left of the two  
women.

Efx: Anna laughing

ANNA SUTTON

The Gods have accepted our vessels.  
Rejoice.

CHORUS

Rejoice!

EFX: bones crunching, moving, breaking, and twisting. Other  
in the room murmuring excitedly.

Efx: Project Cyclops Transition

KATIE

Did we get any indication of where  
she was staying?

HAN ZIGGLER

None.

KATIE

Also Agent Ziggler, why did she  
call herself a scientist? She  
didn't seem like more than a sick  
murderer to me!

HAN ZIGGLER

People are strange, Katie. If I  
have learned anything from NTK it  
is that humans are entirely  
different in public than they are  
in private?

KATIE

What do you mean?

HAN ZIGGLER

Humanity's understanding of their  
own mortality is their greatest  
weakness. Instead of growing to  
become grateful of the opportunity  
to be present, too many act out  
viscously in dread of the  
inevitable.

KATIE

Meaning their own death?

HAN ZIGGLER

Worse. That they will be completely  
forgotten... as if there was a  
never a trace of their existence.

KATIE

Most people don't have to wait for  
death for that happen.

HAN ZIGGLER

Exactly.

EFX: Door Close

Efx: Recording Off